

United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0103

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January 12, 2021

The Honorable Robert G. Taub  
Chairman  
Postal Regulatory Commission  
901 New York Avenue NW, Suite 200  
Washington, D.C. 20268

Re: Contract Postal Unit in Spanish Fort, Alabama

Dear Chairman Taub:

I write with regard to the appeal made by the Post Office in the City of Spanish Fort, Alabama – Docket No. A2021-1.

It is my understanding that the United States Postal Service (USPS) is planning to close a Contract Postal Unit (CPU) located in Spanish Fort. The Spanish Fort CPU, like others around the country, is a private vender operated facility in partnership with USPS to provide postal services to communities. Currently, the Spanish Fort CPU is expected to cease operations on January 15, 2021, once its existing contract expires.

USPS has stated that it plans to move certain operations to the Daphne, Alabama Post Office, which presents several unique logistical challenges that are only heightened by the present COVID-19 environment. Spanish Fort is a municipality that has experienced over 30% population growth between 2010 and 2018. Additionally, Spanish Fort and Daphne are located in Baldwin County, Alabama, which is itself one of the fastest growing areas in the state. Due to the already limited capacity at the Daphne Post Office, increasing operations at this facility may create unintended consequences for both communities.

Furthermore, several members of the community, including local elected officials, have expressed frustration with USPS and the process that took place during the negotiations to extend or renew the CPU contract in Spanish Fort. I have been advised that certain options were not considered or evaluated, and that, at a minimum, some level of ambiguity existed in discussions or, at worst, misinformation was shared.

I believe it is important to note that the current operator of the Spanish Fort CPU has agreed to extend the existing contract with the same terms and conditions to allow for further negotiations and continued discussions to take place.

As the only post office in Spanish Fort, and due to the circumstances surrounding its proposed closing, it is my hope that the Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC), in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations, provide full and fair consideration to Spanish Fort's appeal. Please do not hesitate to contact my office with further questions.

Sincerely,



Richard Shelby

cc: The Honorable Louis DeJoy, Postmaster General and Chief Executive Officer of the United States Postal Service  
The Honorable Ashley E. Poling, PRC Vice Chairwoman  
The Honorable Michael Kubayanda, PRC Commissioner  
The Honorable Mark Acton, PRC Commissioner  
The Honorable Ann C. Fisher, PRC Commissioner